



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, July 10, 2019 – 1 PM**

PAOC attending: Mary Haizlip, Ellen Daugherty, Patricia Daigle, Juaness Keplinger and Lisa Law

UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Shanette Parks, Brett Hanover

Observing: Sharon Petty

- I. Welcome
Kennedy calls the meeting to order.

APPROVALS

- II. Approval of Minutes – June 2019
Kennedy asks for a motion to approve the June 2019 minutes. Law moves, Haizlip seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved with no changes.
- III. District Mural Program
 - A. Bickford Community Center - final design
Kennedy shares Danielle Sierra's final mural design, and notes the changes from schematic design to final, which Sierra painted rather working from digital files to better show how the mural will look. Changes based on previous selection committee and PAOC feedback include use of polka dots instead of stars in the background in the main portrait area, altered orientation of figures in the main portrait area, and detail added to the small figures around the portraits and the swimmers above. The flowers at the bottom also have more detailing.

Kennedy asks for approval of final design. Daughtery motions, Keplinger seconds. The design is unanimously approved.
 - B. Raleigh Town Center - final design
Parks briefs PAOC on the dialogue at the town hall meeting in Raleigh regarding the concerns from residents about Joseph Boyd's mural inviting graffiti, which were largely mitigated through conversation. Residents also discussed concerns about the location of the mural on the wall facing Scheibler Rd. outside of the Town Center not being as visible from inside the center. Parks notes that after following up with Tom Marshall from the architecture firm for the development, infrastructure on the interior side will obstruct the majority of the wall. Law, Daughtery and Daigle suggest referring Boyd to the Chickasaw Nation website for more culturally appropriate references for the indigenous imagery included in the design. Daugherty also calls out that "nation" may be replaced with homeland to reflect past history based on language from the website. Daigle also questions the purpose of the lady with the blue afro-style hair and the feathers that are shown throughout the mural.



Given the notes on the final design, Kennedy asks PAOC to approve final design to issue the design payment, and UAC will hold the fabrication payment until further edits have been made and approved. Haizlip moves, Law seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Dunbar Elementary – schematic design, budget request

Kennedy confirms that Desmond Lewis' sculpture project is still slated to be at Dunbar Elementary but if need be the sculptures could be moved if there are changes to the site in the future. Schematic design has not changed significantly from the initial proposal, but includes one instead of two benches due to the cost of steel rising. Kennedy notes that Lewis plans to coordinate engagement opportunities and get photographs for the column's silhouette design. The project development is ahead of the City in terms of the sidewalk and crosswalk renovations, etc. and will coordinate fabrication/installation of the sculpture with those plans. Haizlip speaks to the stainless steel potentially being a hazard due to heat, as well as the cutouts on the bench and the columns being rolled really well to avoid something/one getting caught on the edges. She asks that Lewis consider another way to create the hand impressions, possibly being indented versus cutouts which could also help minimize costs. Daugherty asks why the dancers are included in the design, Kennedy responds that there is an active ballet program at Dunbar Elementary. Haizlip suggests Lewis better flesh out the details of the column composition. Law asks specific questions about the cost of the columns and how the plastic is placed into the silhouettes to discourage someone putting their hands into the cut-outs. Daigle suggests the blocks beneath the bench could be less like nursery blocks, noting a bench Lewis designed for Soulsville that incorporate the use of letters differently. Law asks if the bench could have some sort of plastic coating on the bench to mitigate concerns about heat. Daugherty asks if the columns are double-sided and if the columns could include color because of their location at an elementary school.

Lewis has asked for additional funding to realize the project, again due to the rising cost of steel, but the exact contingency request is not clear from the schematic design budget. UAC will clarify the exact amount and need for the contingency request and ask PAOC for approval at a future meeting. Kennedy shares that there is adequate contingency funding and additional funds, pending the confirmed amount, should not be a concern.

Kennedy notes that given the amount of discussion and questions related to the schematic design, further edits may be needed before moving onto final design documents. She also notes that it has been almost a year since Lewis' last payment due to site issues and asks PAOC to consider approving half of the schematic design payment pending additional detail from Lewis. Haizlip motions, Daigle seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Raleigh Town Center – schematic design

Parks presents Yvonne Bobo's schematic design which has minimal changes to the initial proposal. Parks calls out suggested locations for the three sculptures by the artist and architects around the walking trail and entrance to the development. Kennedy asks where the artists selection committee is on their feedback and also notes in previous discussions that they wanted the trail to be utilized fully and asks if the proposed locations adequately accomplish that goal. Law suggests that the placement is encouraging people to know that the walking trail continues beyond the driveway. She also questions if the bases for the sculptures are white concrete or



painted white; Parks will confirm with Bobo in presenting final design documents to the committee next.

Kennedy asks for a motion to approve schematic design pending the artist selection committee approval. Law motions, Daugherty seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Hickory Hill Blight Out – final design

Kennedy references the conversations had over e-mail related to Tobacco Brown's final design documents and the responses provided by the artist. Related to maintenance of the temporary project, Brown understands the City will not be actively keeping up with the plantings included in the project. In addition to selecting a plant that does not require significant upkeep, Brown noted that she plans to check in on the growth herself to ensure the vines are growing as intended. A more mature Carolina Jasmine vine will be purchased and attached to the baobab tree structure and will take about a year to grow to the desired effect. Haizlip questioned the depth of the footing, suggesting that she would expect the foundation to be potentially deeper than noted in the engineering drawings. Kennedy noted that given the temporary nature of the project, UAC discussed with Brown that the structure be built with ease of removal and limited impact to the site be considered in the design. Law asks if there is adequate room between the rebar of the tree structure there is to ensure the vine grows properly. Daugherty asks about the top being capped off to ensure the safety of small animals and people not being able to climb inside the structure and suggests mesh over the top. Law asks if the hatch at the base will ultimately be obstructed by the growth of the vine and how it will be secured before the vine has matured. UAC will confirm these details before installation and update PAOC accordingly.

Kennedy asks for a motion to approve final design. Law approves. Daigle seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

VII. District Mural Program – updates

Kennedy notes that with limited time remaining, PAOC can review further updates from the DMP artists incorporating the suggestions made by the committee via the Dropbox link that was shared before the meeting.

VIII. Wolf River Greenway mural – contract status

Kennedy makes everyone aware that she is planning to email Merriweather about the Greenway project to ascertain the feasibility of the project, detailing efforts and conversations over the last six months in particular to finalize installation. Over the last year, UAC has consistently reached out to Merriweather to help coordinate the details of the installation of the mural with extremely limited information and communication from the artist. In March 2019, UAC requested a timeline for the installation or to have the materials given to UAC to directly coordinate. Merriweather did indicate the vinyl had been produced but not cut for installation on the underpass columns with no further communication about a timeline. At this time, UAC recommends that Merriweather turn over the details and materials for the installation to be led by UAC. If Merriweather does not respond to this request by the first of August, UAC recommends canceling the contract. Daugherty asks what cancelling the contract would mean for another public art project for that site. Kennedy is not certain because a large amount of money has already been dispersed for



this project, but that it might be possible to use Landmarks funding allocated in the FY20 public art plan to move the project forward. Daigle asks if there is language in the artist contract noting that if deadlines are not met the contract may be cancelled. Kennedy notes that the deadlines are long past and there is language in City contracts that UAC, the artist and/or City of Memphis can cancel the contract at any point with written notice. Petty suggests sending the letter via certified mail in addition to email. Haizlip asks that it be noted if the contract does have to be cancelled that UAC not contract with Merriweather in the future. Daughtery offers history on a previous PAOC member voicing concerns about working with this artist before this particular project began. Law agrees that this step feels necessary after previous attempts to move the project forward, Haizlip echoes those sentiments. Petty agrees to assisting UAC in drafting a cancellation letter if need be.

Kennedy asks for objections regarding the approach; there are none.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

September 11, 2019 @ 1:00 PM

October 9, 2019 @ 1:00 PM

November 13, 2019 @ 1:00 PM